



State Rehabilitation Council

Nebraska Department of Education

301 Centennial Mall South • PO Box 94987 • Lincoln, NE 68509

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Center for People in Need April 13, 2010 DRAFT

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under "conferences & meetings" at least 5 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mitch Arnold, Sharon Bloechle, Katie Burfee, Teri Effle, Alvin Fox, Susan Gieschen, Jason Kerkman, Tim Kolb, Larry Niemeyer, Leslie Novacek, Vicki Obrecht, Deb Osentowski, Kipp Ransom, Vicki Rasmussen, Mark Schultz, Angela Smith, VanZandt, Terry Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Seamus Kelly

VR STAFF PRESENT: Don Crouch, Jim Coyle, Jack Shepard

PRESENTERS: Kelly Funk, VR Office; Shauna Dahlgren, Easter Seals; Chris Hess, Abilities Fund;

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:00 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Open Meetings Act is posted on the back table.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alvin Fox moved and Mitch Arnold seconded a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2010 MINUTES

Alvin Fox moved and Jason Kerkman seconded a motion to approve the February 9, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR

Angela Smith shared that job leads given through VR in some regions are the same jobs posted in the paper and on the web. VR is not providing a benefit to these clients. Don shared that each person should have an individual job search strategy and will look into this. Vicki Rasmussen asked that these people be referred to the Client Assistance Program.

CAP REPORT

Vicki Rasmussen shared a written CAP report in the member packets. Tim asked about an assessment that was done on one client who was not aware that this test was being given. The client asked that the report be removed from her case. The process of providing informed choice to the clients about the psychological process is being reviewed.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON WRITTEN REPORTS

There were no comments or questions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mark Schultz reported on the latest VR events.

- Mark and Margy have been visiting Teams statewide. Teams are reporting that it will be difficult to meet outcomes this year although jobs are picking up lately.
- The Legislature has implemented a 2% cut to all agencies. In 2011, there will not be a cost of living increase on the federal level. VR is projecting a break even budget with the use of stimulus dollars. Teams have been asked about cost savings ideas. Cost savings plans are: some stimulus dollars will be shifted to case services, succession planning will not be done, some positions will not be filled, ended stimulus project with Goodwill in North Platte, and cancelled the state staff meeting for this fall.
- Stimulus dollars will be used toward technology. A video conferencing system will be set up in 10 offices across the state. This will reduce time and travel expenses. The system will be available to other agencies which will generate some funds.
- Mobile technology is being investigated through iPads. The Pad would link staff into a web-based data system that would have the information that is needed to do their job. This project is going to be tested.
- \$580,000 of the \$2.6 mil of ARRA funds received has been spent. There are 12.29 FTEs funded by stimulus dollars.
- The Consumer Input Committee will be starting. The Committee will consist of two SRC council members, six members from the community, one office director and one program director. Mark would like them to review a TIPS for service authorization that one Team developed and a booklet that has been developed.
- A high cost fund was created at the state level to help consumers with high cost needs.

VR FACEBOOK, YOU TUBE & VIDEO

Kelly Funk from the VR marketing team shared projects that they are working on. They have created a

page on Facebook to try to reach more people. Vicki suggested that the site be shared with clients. Agency events and general updates are posted on the page twice a week.

A You Tube site has also been created. It is used for uploading success story videos.

Using Linked In for business connections is also being looked into.

SOCIAL SECURITY WORK INCENTIVES

Shauna Dahlgren from Easter Seals presented on Work Incentives. A Power Point presentation was distributed. Their WIPA program provides complete and accurate information to Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries. The NWII program is a collaborative agreement with VR to provide state-wide benefits planning services to participating VR clients. The goals of the work incentive programs are to assist individuals to achieve gainful employment, increase independence and facilitate empowerment and acquire self-support. Shauna answered member's questions.

SELF EMPLOYMENT STORIES

Chris Hess from the Abilities Fund Program spoke about Self Employment success stories. A resource for clients is Business Support Services that are available after a client has started their business. Information about the program can be found at, www.abilitiesfund.org. Nathan opened, 40 Nights Photography, in Lincoln. After some times of struggle, he is doing well; www.40nightscreative.com. Jean from Kearney was laid off and started her own business doing editing and business assistance, "virtual assistant". Robert from Lincoln revised his business and marketing plan. He provides computer services to small businesses and students. He has become an authorized Windstream agent. 13 out of 49 clients that have started a business were not able to make it.

REVISE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Don Crouch pursued the ability of the Commissioner of Education to appoint new members to the Council instead of the Board of Education. This will allow the SRC to approve members more quickly and with less paperwork. Don has marked the necessary changes in the Operational Procedures. The changes were reviewed and will be voted upon at the June 9 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Client Services Committee

Larry Niemeyer shared that they receive client input through the surveys, from the SRC, from CAP and from the Ombudsman. He suggested that ombudsman reports be added to the meeting information. The Consumer Input Committee could be asked to review the surveys and the survey process. They would like to be able to access more client opinion and satisfaction information. Pearl shared that NCBVI pays someone to phone survey clients at various stages of their plan. Clients are able to make comments rather than just answer questions so makes the information valuable. Pearl was asked to share information about the process at the next meeting and will e-mail the surveys to Larry.

Vicky and Deb are working to get the Consumer Input Committee started. Each VR office has submitted one or two client names to be nominated to the Committee. Currently they have 14 names. They will all be contacted and then the first survey can go to them.

Employer Services Committee

Jason Kerkman shared that the Senator Luncheon was held with a good turn-out by the Senators but a poor SRC turn-out. Next year an effort should be made to have a good showing by SRC members to share information with the Senators.

The 'Entrepreneur of Distinction' will be awarded again this year. The nomination process was done and the awards will be given on July 14 in Lincoln. Jason moved to accept the nominations of Open Doors Computer Services, Office Genie, 40 Nights Photography and the Brady Get-n-Go. Pearl seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.** Local press will be asked to cover the award ceremony.

The survey and letter to businesses went out with about 60 returned. Some of the more negative comments were that they would like more follow-up from VR and the skills of the client were not what expected. The survey responses will be compiled for review.

Goals of the Committee are to reach out to other organizations to learn how to better serve the population of clients who have a felony on their record. This adds an additional consideration when job seeking. They would also like to be more involved with the Latino population and work more with Temp agencies as a good mode of hiring.

Transition Committee

Angela Smith shared for the Transition Committee.

- Kids in high school may not be getting their accommodations in college. Parents can request testing be done in high school so that it's in place for college.
- The YRTC liaison has been meeting with staff and facilities.
- The Autism Conference was held on April 8 & 9 in Kearney, 650 attended.
- A stimulus funded grant through the Autism Center of Nebraska is helping 19 people find jobs who do not qualify with DD services.
- Project SEARCH is running in Grand Island and Kearney. They will be starting projects in Norfolk, Lincoln and Hastings.
- Students with borderline IQs can get services due to federal changes.

ADJOURN

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday June 9, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.